

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To: DME Providers
Pharmacists
Home Health Agencies
Managed Care Plans
Regional Administrators
CSO Administrators

Memorandum No: 01-55 MAA
Issued: September 1, 2001

For Information Contact:
Toll Free: 1-800-292-8064

From: James C. Wilson, Assistant Secretary

Subject: Expedited Prior Authorization (EPA) for certain Durable Medical Equipment

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after September 1, 2001, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will implement EPA criteria for the purchase of Semi-Electric Hospital Beds and Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulators (TENS).

The EPA process is designed to decrease the need for written or live telephone prior authorization. The intent is to establish criteria for coverage of selected durable medical equipment (DME) represented by specific procedure codes, enabling providers to create an EPA number when appropriate.

By creating an EPA number, the provider verifies that **all** specified criteria have been met for the requested item.

If **all** specified criteria are **not** met, **the provider must follow the regular procedure for obtaining prior authorization** from MAA, either in writing or by calling toll-free 1-800-292-8064.

EPA criteria can be found in section G of the attached Durable Medical Equipment Billing Instructions, dated September 2001.

All current regulations apply. All services provided are subject to postpay review. (Refer to WAC 388-502-0100)

To obtain this memorandum electronically, go to MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov>.